

Dr. William Van Lopik

Represents: *The interests of persons who engage in the practice of conservation education*

ESTHER-Fox Valley & College of Menominee Nation

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William Van Lopik was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. His educational journey spanned several years earning 4 different degrees. He earned a B.A. in Sociology from Calvin College, an M.A. in Geography from Western Michigan Univ., an M.A. in Human Resource Leadership from Azusa Pacific Univ., and a Ph.D in Resource Development from Michigan State University. He was introduced to political ecology issues while working as an organizational consultant in Central America for 6 years during the early 1990's. In 2001, he was hired by the College of Menominee Nation to help develop their curriculum in sustainable development and worked there as an instructor for 15 years. He led a number of student research groups to learn about environmental issues in Latin America. For the past 6 years, he has worked as a community organizer in the Appleton/Oshkosh area for ESTHER which a local affiliate of the statewide organization WISDOM. He has helped lead a number of environmental justice initiatives at the local and statewide level. He is proud to have been appointed by Gov. Evers to serve on the Council on Forestry in 2020 while representing the interests of the conservation education community.